

**U.S. District Court  
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:18-cv-02415-RDM**

LEOPOLD et al v. U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS  
ENFORCEMENT et al  
Assigned to: Judge Randolph D. Moss  
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 10/22/2018  
Jury Demand: None  
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of  
Information Act  
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff**

**JASON LEOPOLD**

represented by **Merrick Jason Wayne**  
LOEVY & LOEVY  
311 N. Aberdeen Street  
Third Floor  
Chicago, IL 60607  
(312) 243-5900  
Fax: (312) 243-5902  
Email: [merrick@loevy.com](mailto:merrick@loevy.com)  
*ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

**Matthew Topic**  
LOEVY & LOEVY  
311 N. Aberdeen Street  
Third Floor  
Chicago, IL 60607  
(312) 243-5900  
Fax: (312) 243-5902  
Email: [matt@loevy.com](mailto:matt@loevy.com)  
*ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

**Plaintiff**

**BUZZFEED INC.**

represented by **Merrick Jason Wayne**  
(See above for address)  
*ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

**Matthew Topic**  
(See above for address)  
*ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

V.

**Defendant**

**U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS  
ENFORCEMENT**

represented by **Marina Utgoff Braswell**  
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
555 Fourth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20530  
(202) 252-2561  
Fax: (202) 252-2599  
Email: [Marina.Braswell@usdoj.gov](mailto:Marina.Braswell@usdoj.gov)  
*LEAD ATTORNEY*  
*ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
HOMELAND SECURITY**

represented by **Marina Utgoff Braswell**  
(See above for address)  
*LEAD ATTORNEY*  
*ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

**Defendant****U.S. CUSTOMS & BORDER  
PROTECTION**represented by **Marina Utgoff Braswell**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED****Defendant****U.S. CITIZENSHIP &  
IMMIGRATION SERVICES**represented by **Marina Utgoff Braswell**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
10/22/2018	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES, U.S. CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT ( Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-5751963) filed by JASON LEOPOLD, BUZZFEED INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A, # <u>2</u> Exhibit B, # <u>3</u> Exhibit C, # <u>4</u> Exhibit D, # <u>5</u> Exhibit E, # <u>6</u> Exhibit F, # <u>7</u> Civil Cover Sheet Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>8</u> Summons Summons)(Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 10/22/2018)
10/22/2018	<u>2</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Matthew Topic on behalf of BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 10/22/2018)
10/22/2018		Case Assigned to Judge Randolph D. Moss. (zmd) (Entered: 10/24/2018)
10/24/2018	<u>3</u>	SUMMONS (6) Issued Electronically as to U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES, U.S. CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General. (Attachment: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zjd) (Entered: 10/24/2018)
10/24/2018	<u>4</u>	STANDING ORDER: The parties are hereby ORDERED to comply with the directives set forth in the attached Standing Order. See document for details. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 10/24/2018. (lcrdm2, ) (Entered: 10/24/2018)
11/28/2018	<u>5</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION served on 11/7/2018 (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 11/28/2018)
11/28/2018	<u>6</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES served on 11/6/2018 (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 11/28/2018)
11/28/2018	<u>7</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY served on 11/7/2018 (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 11/28/2018)
11/28/2018	<u>8</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT served on 11/19/2018 (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 11/28/2018)
11/28/2018	<u>9</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 11/8/2018. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 11/28/2018)
11/28/2018	<u>10</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 11/8/2018. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 12/8/2018. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 11/28/2018)
12/10/2018	<u>11</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES, U.S. CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT.(Braswell,

		Marina) (Entered: 12/10/2018)
12/11/2018		MINUTE ORDER: The parties are hereby ORDERED to appear for an Initial Scheduling Conference on January 4, 2019, at 10:15 a.m. in Courtroom 21. It is further ORDERED that the parties shall confer in advance of the Initial Scheduling Conference on (1) whether any records can be released, and (2) the proper next steps in this litigation. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 12/11/2018. (lcrdm2, ) (Entered: 12/11/2018)
12/12/2018		Set/Reset Hearings: Initial Scheduling Conference set for 1/4/2019, at 10:15 AM, in Courtroom 21, before Judge Randolph D. Moss. (kt) Modified on 12/17/2018 to correct date (year)(kt). (Entered: 12/12/2018)
12/26/2018	<u>12</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Marina Utgoff Braswell on behalf of U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES, U.S. CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (Braswell, Marina) (Entered: 12/26/2018)
12/28/2018	<u>13</u>	Unopposed MOTION to Continue <i>the January 4, 2019, Scheduling Conference</i> by U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES, U.S. CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (Braswell, Marina). (Entered: 12/28/2018)
12/30/2018		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of Defendants' motion to continue the January 4, 2019 Initial Status Conference and to stay the case, Dkt. <u>13</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the motion is GRANTED. The January 4, 2019 ISC is hereby VACATED and this case shall be stayed until further order of the Court. It is further ORDERED that the parties shall meet and confer and submit a proposed date for an initial status conference as soon as Congress appropriates funding for the Department of Justice to resume work. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 12/30/2018. (lcrdm2, ) (Entered: 12/30/2018)
12/31/2018		Case STAYED. (kt) (Entered: 12/31/2018)
02/06/2019	<u>14</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 02/06/2019)
02/06/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Given that funding has been restored for the Department of Justice, it is hereby ORDERED that the stay in this case is lifted. It is further ORDERED that the parties shall appear for an Initial Scheduling Conference on March 6, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 21. It is further ORDERED that the parties shall confer in advance of the Initial Scheduling Conference on (1) whether any records can be released, and (2) the proper next steps in this litigation. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 2/6/2019. (lcrdm2, ) (Entered: 02/06/2019)
03/06/2019		Minute Entry for proceedings held before Judge Randolph D. Moss: Initial Scheduling Conference held on 3/6/2019. Oral motion by Defendant to file an Amended Answer; GRANTED, for the reasons stated on the record. Joint Status Report due by 5/1/2019. (Court Reporter: Jeff Hook.) (kt) (Entered: 03/06/2019)
03/20/2019	<u>15</u>	Amended ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES, U.S. CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT.(Braswell, Marina) (Entered: 03/20/2019)
03/25/2019	<u>16</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 03/25/2019)
05/01/2019	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES, U.S. CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT. (Braswell, Marina) (Entered: 05/01/2019)
05/02/2019		MINUTE ORDER: In light of the parties' joint status report, Dkt. 17, it is hereby ORDERED that Defendants shall provide the Plaintiff with declarations explaining any searches performed seeking responsive records on or before June 14, 2019, and it

		is further ORDERED that the parties shall file a further joint status report on or before June 28, 2019. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 5/2/2019. (lcrdm2, ) (Entered: 05/02/2019)
05/03/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendants shall provide the Plaintiff with declarations explaining any searches performed seeking responsive records on or before 6/14/2019; Joint Status Report due by 6/28/2019. (kt) (Entered: 05/03/2019)
06/28/2019	<u>18</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES, U.S. CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT. (Braswell, Marina) (Entered: 06/28/2019)
07/01/2019		MINUTE ORDER: In light of the parties' joint status report, Dkt. 18, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall submit a further joint status report on or before July 26, 2019, updating the Court on the status of this case and proposing a schedule for further proceedings, if any. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 7/1/2019. (lcrdm2, ) (Entered: 07/01/2019)
07/02/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 7/26/2019. (kt) (Entered: 07/02/2019)
07/26/2019	<u>19</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES, U.S. CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT. (Braswell, Marina) (Entered: 07/26/2019)
08/05/2019		MINUTE ORDER: In light of the parties' joint status report <u>19</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further joint status report on or before September 12, 2019. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 08/05/2019. (lcrdm2, ) (Entered: 08/05/2019)
08/06/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 9/12/2019. (kt) (Entered: 08/06/2019)
08/06/2019	<u>20</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Merrick Jason Wayne on behalf of BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Wayne, Merrick) (Entered: 08/06/2019)
09/12/2019	<u>21</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES, U.S. CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT. (Braswell, Marina) (Entered: 09/12/2019)
09/13/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, Dkt. <u>21</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further joint status report on or before October 30, 2019. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 09/13/2019. (lcrdm2, ) (Entered: 09/13/2019)
09/13/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 10/30/2019. (kt) (Entered: 09/13/2019)
10/30/2019	<u>22</u>	Unopposed MOTION for Extension of Time to File <i>Joint Status Report</i> by U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES, U.S. CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (Braswell, Marina) (Entered: 10/30/2019)
11/04/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the Defendant's unopposed motion for extension of time, Dkt. 22, it is hereby ORDERED that the motion is GRANTED. The parties' joint status report currently due on or before October 30, 2019, shall now be due on or before November 15, 2019. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 11/4/2019. (lcrdm2, ) (Entered: 11/04/2019)
11/15/2019	<u>23</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 11/15/2019)
11/19/2019		MINUTE ORDER: In light of the parties' joint status report, Dkt. 23, the parties are hereby ORDERED to appear for a status conference on November 21, 2019, at 12:00p.m. in Courtroom 21. The parties should be prepared to discuss the anticipated scope of the parties' proposed briefing, including the nature of the disputes on which the parties have not been able to reach an agreement. Signed by Judge Randolph D.

		Moss on 11/19/2019. (lcrdm2, ) (Entered: 11/19/2019)
11/19/2019	<u>24</u>	Unopposed MOTION to Continue <i>Status Conference</i> , Unopposed MOTION for Leave to Appear by Telephone by BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 11/19/2019)
11/20/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of Unopposed Motion to Continue Status Conference and for Counsel for Plaintiffs to Appear Telephonically, Dkt. 24, it is hereby ORDERED that the motion is GRANTED in part and DENIED in part. The Status Conference set for November 21, 2019 is hereby VACATED and RESCHEDULED for December 2, 2019, at 3:00p.m, in Courtroom 21. Counsel may elect to appear telephonically. Any counsel who elects to do so shall contact the deputy clerk for instructions. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 11/20/2019. (lcrdm2, ) (Entered: 11/20/2019)
11/20/2019		Set/Reset Hearings: The Status Conference set for 11/21/2019 is VACATED and RESCHEDULED for 12/2/2019, at 3:00 PM, in Courtroom 21, before Judge Randolph D. Moss. (kt) (Entered: 11/20/2019)
12/02/2019		Minute Entry for proceedings held before Judge Randolph D. Moss: Status Conference held on 12/2/2019. The parties shall sufficiently engage in the exchange of information and file a Joint Status Report by 1/17/2020. Defendants shall provide any further information to Plaintiffs by by 1/31/2020. (Court Reporter: Nancy Meyer.) (kt) (Entered: 12/02/2019)